

workshops, and gifts toward a scholarship in memory of Catherine Hughes who served as supervisor of Foreign Languages for Gary schools. The foundation grew considerably from the modest nucleus of a \$28,000 endowment, and exceeded \$1.4 million in assets by 1990. The money continues to address the educational needs of Gary students—beyond those provided by tax dollars—and promises to benefit our community for generations to come.

Beyond the distinguished alliance with the education community, the Foundation has collaborated with other community organizations and programs that share the Foundation's commitment to the learning needs of Gary students. This year over sixty students in Gary will receive scholarships from the Foundation to help defray college costs.

The Gary Educational Development Foundation will hold an anniversary reception at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana on March 24, 2000, and a formal banquet will occur at St. Timothy's Church the following day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Educational Development Foundation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved with this distinguished organization is truly inspirational.

CONGRATULATING MILLWRIGHT
LOCAL #548's CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial anniversary of the Millwright Local #548 in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Unions have become a key element in the strong economy and culture of Minnesota, and the Millwright Local #548 is no exception. In fact, chartered on December 4, 1900, Local #548 is the oldest organization in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America, and the oldest Millwright organization in the country. The Millwrights currently are 600 members strong, serving the needs of industry, improving the quality of life and maintaining high standards for their families in our area.

I applaud the dedication of this Millwrights union to their organization and advocacy of worker's rights. They have worked hard to ensure that their members have safe work places, receive fair benefits and earn livable wages. But beyond this, the Millwrights have promoted the idea of being responsible members of the community. They encourage members to reach out to others and to become active, informed citizens.

The Millwright apprenticeship programs combine both academic and hands-on experience. Over a period of years these trades people have become the most productive in their craft. It is just such performance that broadly results in good products and a strong economy. The Millwrights, for over 100 years, have been a part of the fabric of our great

state. In fact, they have significantly contributed to the building of the culture and infrastructure of Minnesota.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate Local #548 on 100 years of service and advocacy, and I wish them the best in the next century. I am confident they'll keep their faith in one another and in their union solidarity.

ROSIE THE RIVETER/WORLD WAR
II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to create the "Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park" in Richmond, California—a feature of our National Park system that will recognize and salute the role of the homefront during World War II and particularly the significant changes in the lives of women and minorities and the major social changes that resulted from this era.

The images of Rosie the Riveter and Wendy the Welder, and the films of giant Liberty and Victory ships sliding into the water are all familiar to millions of Americans. These features of home front life during the war, and the demographic changes and social institutions that evolved during the 1940s, significantly shaped the nature of post-war American life for the remainder of the 20th century. Richmond was ground zero for the dizzying home front innovations and stresses that marked the period, and is a perfect place to educate future generations of Americans about the experiences of our people during World War II.

The House passed my legislation in the last Congress (H.R. 3910, section 505) to authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a feasibility study to determine if Richmond was a suitable place for designation as an NPS affiliated site and whether to provide technical assistance to the City of Richmond for interpretive functions related to the park, including oral histories from former workers.

That report has now been completed and finds, as we had hoped, that Richmond "played a significant role during the Home Front years." In fact, many of the dry docks, buildings and related infrastructure constructed and operated during the war remains in place, evoking even today a sense of the enormous commitment of the nation to industrial war production. In 1941–42, four shipyards were built in Richmond with a total employment eventually reaching 98,000. Overall, Richmond housed 56 war-related industries, more than any other city in the United States, producing everything from ships to uniforms and vegetable oil for the war effort. The four Kaiser Yards in Richmond were the largest shipyard construction site on the West Coast and produced 747 ships, more than any other facility in America, including the S.S. *Robert E. Peary* which was constructed in 4 days, 15 hours, and 30 minutes.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children poured into this city on San Francisco

Bay and the population of Richmond grew from 24,000 to over 100,000 in just a few short years. These immigrants imposed enormous demands for housing, education, child care, health care and other vital services, and in response, local officials and employers developed innovative approaches for meeting these needs that serve as the precursors to many of our current educational, health and social service programs.

Large numbers of women and minorities sought jobs in the yards in positions formerly occupied by skilled craftsmen, creating both new employment opportunities and labor tensions. By 1944, over a quarter of all those working at the Kaiser yard were women, including over 40 percent of welders and 24 percent of all other craft employees. The racial composition of the area was significantly altered by the wartime economy, with the black population in Richmond rising from about 1 percent to over 13 percent during the decade of the 1940s. Southern whites encountered often for the first time black men and women who demanded equal treatment and equal rights.

The effort to preserve the remaining structures and to build a memorial to the Rosies and Wendys who labored on behalf of the war effort has very much been promoted by local leaders including Mayor Rosemary Corbin, Councilman Tom Butt, Donna Powers, Donna Graves, Sy Zell and many others. Significant local funds have been raised and the city has committed more than \$600,000 for the memorial. I want to recognize the contributions already made by the City of Richmond, as well as Kaiser Permanente, Ford Motor Corporation, Chevron, and others who are strongly committed to this project. My bill builds on these local efforts by providing assistance both for Richmond and to coordinate Home Front sites throughout the country, but we do not acquire property or assume the major responsibility for restoring or managing the exhibits.

Under this legislation, Richmond will not alone be selected to represent the Home Front during World War II/Instead, the major facilities still existing will be preserved and staffed to serve as a means of linking other sites including the Charlestown Navy Yard (Boston) and Springfield Armory National Historic site to assist help historians, interpreters, caretakers and the public to more fully appreciate the role this and other communities played in winning the war and in transforming the nature of post-war America.

We must act now to save the remaining buildings, drydocks, and other facilities that bring this picture to life for future generations of America. Many of these artifacts are aging, in need of restoration, and threatened by sale or deterioration which will obliterate their historical value. I am hopeful the Committee on Resources will act swiftly to review the Rosie the Riveter Feasibility Study that we commissioned by law in 1998 and then holding hearings on this legislation so that it can be enacted by the Congress this year.